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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Building Phase for New Station out to Bid**

*Bids will be opened April 2*

CLARKSTON, WASH. –Asotin County Fire District 1 just advertised for bids for the building portion of its new station at 2377 Appleside Boulevard, Clarkston. Bids will be opened on April 2, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

The fire district had a ground breaking on August 18, 2018 when the first phase of the project - site and utility work - got underway. Once the weather improves, the final concrete work and gravel spreading at the site will be completed. With the excavation phase nearly finished, the district is ready for the next phase.

Depending on how the bids come in, this may be the final stage of the building project. If so, the station would be ready for the fire district to move in 2020.

The fire district purchased the property at 2377 Appleside Boulevard with an existing building to be renovated for a new fire station in 2014. The fire district pursued and was awarded a federal grant to fund a portion of the construction project. However, the district was awarded only \$750,000 of the \$1,000,000 grant requested after the limit for the grant was lowered. Voters approved a fire levy lid lift in November 2017, to fund the remainder of the estimated \$3.6 million project.

The fire district bid the complete renovation project early in 2018 – at that time the lowest bid came in at \$1.1 million higher than the project was estimated at. A strong economy that led to a construction boom across the state ran the cost of many capital projects, like the fire station, over budget. The Board of Fire Commissioners for Asotin County Fire District 1 rejected all bids at that time and went back to look at ways to cut costs, without compromising its commitment to the people it serves. Breaking the project into phases was more cost-effective.

Once complete, the new facility will accommodate volunteers, apparatus and equipment for Fire District 1 for the next 50 years. The station also will serve as a training facility for firefighters and provide community meeting space. Long term, the fire district plans to sell the existing station after it moves to the new station.

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*Asotin County Fire District 1 provides fire suppression and prevention, emergency medical service (EMS), river rescue, oil spill response and wildland fire protection to 14,000 people over 120 square miles of land and 35 miles of shoreline. Thirty-two volunteer firefighters, 28 emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and 35 paramedics (through a partnership with Lewiston) respond to an average of 2,600 calls per year. The fire district operates under a balanced budget and has passed all financial and accountability audits*

*by the state. Learn more about Asotin County Fire District 1 by visiting their web site [www.acfd1.org](http://www.acfd1.org) or Facebook page /asotincountyfd1.*